



International Commission
against the Death Penalty

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Federico Mayor

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Louise Arbour

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

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Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: India - death sentence for men convicted of gang-rape

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) opposes the death sentences passed by a court in New Delhi on September 13 on the four men convicted of the gang-rape and murder of a young woman.

Those found guilty of this serious crime, which was committed on 16 December 2012, deserve to be severely punished but without recourse to the death penalty.

“The death penalty is not a deterrent to serious crime and the execution of these four men will not stop the violence against women. The attention should not be on executions but on tackling the root causes of sexual violence” said Mr. Federico Mayor, President of ICDP.

Opposing the death penalty is not to condone the crime; it is to stand up for the rule of law and human rights. Combating sexual violence and ensuring victims of crime receive justice is essential but justice must be rooted in human rights, not revenge and retribution.

Some 150 countries have abolished the death penalty or no longer carry out executions. This growing community of States encompasses all major cultures, religions and regions. These countries have recognized that State killing is ineffective in deterring crime, arbitrary in its application and risks executing the innocent.

ICDP calls on the Government of India to declare an official moratorium on executions, in line with the UN General Assembly Resolutions calling for a moratorium on the use of death penalty, and commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment as a step towards full abolition of capital punishment.

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Background

ICDP was founded in Madrid in October 2010. ICDP is composed of 15 personalities of high international standing from all regions of the world who act with total independence and neutrality and work under its President Mr. Federico Mayor.

ICDP opposes the death penalty under any circumstances believing that it violates the right to life enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. ICDP promotes the abolition of capital punishment in law in those states that observe a de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty and promotes moratoriums on executions in states that rarely use the death penalty. In states that continue to carry out executions ICDP urges strict adherence to international standards.

ICDP works with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, governments and nongovernmental organizations to further the abolition of capital punishment worldwide.

The work of the ICDP is supported by a diverse group of 17 states from all regions of the world that are committed to abolition of the death penalty. Its secretariat is based in Geneva.

